

M. Morimoto et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/517,242
Page 2 of 7

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A printing plate comprising a raised part for transferring printing substance to a printing substrate, wherein

said raised part is formed to extend linearly in plan view,

said raised part is shaped as a rectangular frame in plan view,

said raised part has at least one groove formed on its printing surface,

said at least one groove is formed to pass through from one side to another side of said raised part.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 1, wherein said groove has a ~~nearly-triangular~~triangular cross section.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The printing plate according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said grooves extend in one direction and parallel to each other and are equally spaced apart.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The printing plate according to claim 3, being a printing plate for a flexographic press, wherein

said groove has a width along the printing surface of said raised part of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm , a depth of not less than 25 μm and not more than 75 μm , and a distance between the grooves of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm .

Claim 5 (previously presented): The printing plate according to claim 4, said printing plate including said raised part shaped as the rectangular frame, wherein

a side of said frame is parallel to a longitudinal direction of said groove, and

M. Morimoto et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/517,242
Page 3 of 7

said raised part is provided such that said side of said frame is in a slanting direction relative to a moving direction of said printing plate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The printing plate according to claim 4, said printing plate including said raised part shaped as the rectangular frame, wherein
a side of said frame and a longitudinal direction of said groove form an angle of approximately 45°.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The printing plate according to claim 6, wherein a moving direction of said printing plate is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said groove.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The printing plate according to claim 6, wherein the moving direction of said printing plate is substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of said groove.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A press comprising said printing plate according to claim 1.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus for manufacturing a liquid crystal device comprising said printing plate according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method of relief printing comprising:
the step of printing by pressing, on a printing substrate, a printing plate including a raised part,
said raised part is formed to extend linearly in plan view,
said raised part is shaped as a rectangular frame in plan view,
said raised part having a plurality of grooves on a surface for transferring printing substance,
said plurality of grooves passing through from one side to another side of said raised part;
and

M. Morimoto et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/517,242
Page 4 of 7

the step of transferring printing substance to the printing substrate by disposing said printing plate on a perimeter surface of a cylindrical plate cylinder and rotating said plate cylinder.

Claim 12 (original): The printing method according to claim 11, performed by using a flexographic press.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The printing method according to claim 12, wherein said raised part is shaped as the rectangular frame, said grooves are linear grooves parallel to each other and equally spaced apart, and the printing substance to be printed onto said printing substrate is a sealing material.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The printing method according to claim 13, wherein said sealing material is a sealing material for a flat panel display, said grooves have a width along a surface of said raised parts of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm , a depth of not less than 25 μm and not more than 75 μm , and a distance between the grooves of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm .

Claim 15 (previously presented): The printing method according to claim 14, wherein said step of transferring includes the step of rotating said plate cylinder while using said printing plate with said grooves being parallel with a side of said frame, a moving direction of said printing plate forming an angle of approximately 45° with a longitudinal direction of said grooves.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The printing method according to claim 14, wherein said step of transferring includes the step of rotating said plate cylinder while using said printing plate with said grooves forming an angle of approximately 45° with a side of said frame, a moving direction of said printing plate being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said grooves.

M. Morimoto et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/517,242
Page 5 of 7

Claim 17 (previously presented): The printing method according to claim 14, wherein said step of transferring includes the step of rotating said plate cylinder while using said printing plate with said grooves forming an angle of approximately 45° with a side of said frame, a moving direction of said printing plate being parallel to a longitudinal direction of said grooves.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device employing the printing method according to claim 11.